

NOTES FROM THE MAYOR
September 3, 2014
Meet and Greet

The Challenge Ahead

Last Monday evening I was sworn in for my 5th three year term as mayor. Also sworn in were Aldermen Jerry Mathis and Mike Stanton. Dr. Steve Lynn and Amy Johnson were sworn in as new Board of Education members.

I wanted to use the swearing-in ceremony as an opportunity to challenge and motivate the people of Tullahoma. Following is the essence of my talk after the swearing-in ceremony:

"I wish to thank the people of Tullahoma, once again, for the honor and privilege of representing and leading this community three more years.

Although I stand here by myself, I did not get here by myself. To those who reached out to me to offer their help during my campaign, in both big and small ways, I appreciate your confidence in me. To those who did not support me, I hope to earn your confidence. A special thank you to my family, especially my wife of 35+ years, Evelyn. It's hard to believe, but we married in 1979 and I began my public service career three years later. My work in Public Service is just about all she has known. I appreciate the many sacrifices she has made as I have worked to help lead this community. She is special to have put up with me. My life in public service is all my children have ever known and I appreciate their understanding, as well. Both are now adults and have made excellent life decisions. I am very proud of them both.

I am pleased for the opportunity to work with the fine folks at city government and affiliated agencies three more years. They are a hard-working and dedicated group of men and women and I appreciate them all.

To the children I see at the schools, to the business people I see at the Post Office, to the friendly folks I see at ball games, stores, and around town, I believe it is obvious I enjoy being your mayor. I enjoy helping make opportunities happen in Tullahoma. I enjoy helping defeat the challenges we face in Tullahoma. I enjoy looking for ways to make Tullahoma the very best it can be. Some people choose to see a glass of water as half empty; others choose to see the glass half full. I choose to see the glass full – half with water and half with air.

My chief job as Mayor is to cast a vision for Tullahoma's future and inspire others to strive for this vision. Great cities are intentional, not accidental.

We live in a blessed community in many ways. But can we do better as a community? Of course we can. My vision and one I think about every day and I hope you share with me, is that I want Tullahoma to be a world-class community. A community that is drug-free and safe community. A community that is clean and green. A community where everyone has the opportunity for a challenging and rewarding career. A community where citizens care, are engaged, are healthy, and make a difference every day. A community where the arts are prevalent and available to all. A community where children are valued and nurtured. A community where we look out for each other. A community that values our rich aviation and aerospace heritage. A community that appreciates and grows our retail, technical and medical strengths. A community where young adults want to remain, return to, or relocate to raise their families. A community that strives for a quality of life second to none. A community where people want to invest.

I believe we can accomplish this and more and be on our way to being recognized as a world-class community. I say: Why can't Tullahoma be the best? I want us to have a sense of urgency to work toward being the best. Some community is going to be the best. Why not Tullahoma?

I expect the best from our community. I expect the best from people around me. I expect the best from myself. I expect and will accept nothing less than the best in our effort to design and build a world-class community.

In summary, one of life's greatest privileges is to serve others. I appreciate the honor of serving the people of Tullahoma three more years. As many have heard me say: Every day is a great day to be in Tullahoma!"
THOUGHT OF THE WEEK: "You are never too old to set another goal or to dream a new dream." - C.S. Lewis
Have an idea or suggestion? Contact me at mayor@tullahomatin.gov, voice mail 581-0360, PO Box 807, or Facebook.